| | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **Notice of Allowability** | 10/764,408 | KAKEMURA, ATSUSHI |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | David E. Martinez | 2181 |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *1/23/04*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-20*.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some*    c) ☐ None  of the:

        1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

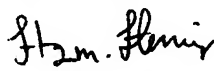    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

    Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 1/23/04, 3/8/06

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *2/24/06* .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

FRITZ FLEMING
Supervisory PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2100
Au2181 3/13/2006

## EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David A. Blumenthal (Reg. No. 26,257) on March 8, 2006. Examiner requested changes to claims 1-20 were agreed upon by the applicant on March 8, 2006 to overcome 112-2nd paragraph rejections. Additional changes to dependent claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 were also made by the applicant to further clarify the claims. The claims submitted below are a clean version of the claims submitted by the proposed amendment on March 8, 2006, attached hereto.

The application has been amended as follows:

Original claims 1-20 (submitted on 1/23/04) have replaced with the following claims:

1.     A first information processing apparatus for communicating with an external device which displays received image data, comprising:

       means for transmitting image data to the external device;

       means for receiving an interrupt request from the external device while the external device is displaying the received image data from the transmitting means, the interrupt request indicating that the external device received an image-data transmission request from a second information processing apparatus; and

       means for instructing the external device whether or not to allow shifting a transmission source transmitting the image data to the external device from the first information processing apparatus to the second information processing apparatus when the receiving means received the interrupt request.

2.     The first information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for inquiring of the user of the first information processing apparatus about whether or not to allow shifting of

the transmission sources, when the interrupt request has been received by the receiving means and before operation of the instructing means.

3.      The first information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising means for setting the operation mode of the instruction means to either one of a first mode for performing an inquiry by the inquiring means and a second mode for instructing the external device to prohibit the shifting of the transmission source without performing the inquiry by the inquiring means.

4.      The first information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

        wherein said interrupt receiving means receives a plurality of interrupt request from a plurality of second information processing apparatuses, the plurality of interrupt request indicating that the external device received an image-data transmission request from the plurality of second information processing apparatuses, and said first information processing apparatus further comprising:

        means for storing identifying information for identifying each of the second plurality of information processing apparatuses indicated by the plurality of interrupt requests;

        means for displaying a list of the stored identifying information corresponding to said second plurality of information processing apparatuses on a display of the first information processing apparatus; and

        means for selecting one identifying information from the list as the next transmission source.

5.      The first information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the instruction means includes means for transmitting the selected one identifying information to the external device to allow shifting the transmission source to one of the second plurality of information processing apparatuses corresponding to the selected one identifying information, when the one identifying information is selected by the selecting means.

6.      A method for controlling the transmission of image data from a first information processing apparatus to an external device which displays received image data, comprising the steps of:

        transmitting image data to the external device;

        receiving an interrupt request from the external device at least while the external device is displaying the received image data from the first information processing apparatus, the interrupt request

indicating that the external device received an image-data transmission request from a second

information processing apparatus; and

in response to the interrupt request, instructing the external device whether or not to allow shifting

a transmission source transmitting the image data to the external device from the first information

processing apparatus to the second information processing apparatus.

7.      The method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 6, further

comprising the step of inquiring of the user of the first information processing apparatus about whether or

not to allow shifting the transmission sources, when the interrupt request has been received and before

the instructing step.

8.      The method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 7, further

comprising the step of setting the operation mode of the instruction step to either one of a first mode for

performing an inquiry in the inquiring step and a second mode for instructing.the external device to

prohibit the shift of the transmission sources without the inquiry in the inquiring step.

9.      The method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 6, further

comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of interrupt request from a plurality of second information processing

apparatuses, the plurality of interrupt request indicating that the external device received an image-data

transmission request from the plurality of second information processing apparatuses,

storing identifying information for identifying each of the second plurality of information processing

apparatuses indicated by the plurality of interrupt requests;

displaying a list of the stored identifying information corresponding to said second plurality of information

processing apparatuses on the display of the first information processing apparatus; and

selecting one identifying information from the list as the next transmission source.

10.     The method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 9, wherein the

instructing step includes the step of transmitting the selected one identifying information to the external

device to allow shifting the transmission source to one of the second plurality of information processing

apparatuses corresponding to the selected one identifying information, when the one identifying

information is selected in the selecting step.

11.     A first information processing apparatus for communicating with an external device which

displays received image data, comprising:

        means for transmitting image data to the external device;

        means for receiving an interrupt request from the external device, the interrupt request indicating

that the external device received an image-data presentation request from a second information

processing apparatus; and

        means, responsive to said interrupt request, for instructing the external device whether or not to

allow display of image data from the second information processing apparatus.

12.     The first information processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising means,

responsive to said interrupt request, for inquiring of the user of the first  information processing apparatus

about whether or not to allow display of image data from the second information processing apparatus

before instructing the external device whether or not to allow display of image data from the second

information processing apparatus.

13.     The first information processing apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising means for

setting the operation mode of the instruction means to either one of a first mode for performing an inquiry

by the inquiring means and a second mode for instructing the external device to automatically prohibit the

display of image data from the second information processing apparatus without an inquiry to said user of

the first information processing apparatus.

14.     The first information processing apparatus according to claim 11,

        wherein said interrupt receiving means receives a plurality of interrupt request from a plurality of

second information processing apparatuses, the plurality of interrupt request indicating that the external

device received an image-data presentation request from the plurality of second information processing

apparatuses, and said first information processing apparatus further comprising:

        means for storing identifying information for identifying the second plurality of information

processing apparatuses indicated by the plurality of interrupt requests;

means for displaying a list of the stored identifying information corresponding to said second plurality of information processing apparatuses on a display of the first information processing apparatus; and

means for selecting one identifying information from the list as the next display source.

15.     The first information processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the instruction means includes means for transmitting the selected one identifying information to the external device to allow shifting the source of the image data to correspond to the selected next display source.

16.     A method for controlling the display of image data transmitted from a first information processing apparatus to an external device which displays received image data, comprising the steps of:

transmitting image data to the external device;

receiving an interrupt request from the external device while the external device is displaying the received image data from the first information processing apparatus, the interrupt request indicating that the external device received an image-data presentation request from a second information processing apparatus; and

in response to the interrupt request, instructing the external device whether or not to allow display of image data from the second information processing apparatus.

17.     The method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 16, further including, in response to the interrupt request, inquiring of the user of the first information processing apparatus about whether or not to allow display of image data from the second information processing apparatus before instructing the external device whether or not to allow display of image data from the second information processing apparatus.

18.     The method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 17, further comprising the step of setting the operation mode of the instruction step to either one of a first mode for performing an inquiry in the inquiring step and a second mode for instructing the external device to automatically prohibit the display of image data from the second information processing apparatus without an inquiry to said user of' the first information processing apparatus.

19.      The method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 16, further

comprising the steps of:

       receiving a plurality of interrupt request from a plurality of second information processing

apparatuses, the plurality of interrupt request indicating that the external device received an image-data

transmission request from the plurality of second information processing apparatuses,

       storing information for identifying the each of the second plurality of information processing

apparatuses indicated by the plurality of interrupt requests;

       displaying a list of the stored identifying information corresponding to said second plurality of

information processing apparatuses on the display of the first information processing apparatus; and

       selecting one identifying information from the list as the next display source.

20.      The method for controlling the transmission of image data according to claim 19, wherein the

instructing step includes the step of transmitting the selected one identifying information to the external

device to allow shifting the display source to one of the second plurality of information processing

apparatuses corresponding to the selected one identifying information.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

       Claims 1-20 are allowed over the prior art of record.

       The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

       There are fundamental differences between the prior art of record and the instant

application.

       As per the references cited in the PTO-892 Form, below is a summary of the closest

references found and how they differ from the instant application:

       US Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0235323 A1 to Ellis et al. teaches a set

top box with two tuners being used simultaneously to display video on a television.  While the

viewer is using both tuners (such as when using picture in picture while watching a show), and

had previously preset the set top box to record a program, just before the time to record the

program, the set top box will prompt the viewer if to whether or not to allow using one of the

tuners in current use for the recording of a program. Ellis et al. fail to disclose a video display device switching from one video data source device to another video data source device based on an interrupt request.

US Patent No. 6,748,596 to Knudson et al. teaches a using a set top box for selecting a program for recording to a video recording device from a program guide. At the scheduled broadcast time of the program selected for recording, the set top box will display a message informing a user that recording is about to begin and ask the user whether or not to allow the scheduled recording to take place, if the user chooses to continue with the recording, the program guide system tunes the set top box to the television channel of the selected program and directs the videocassette recorder to begin recording the program. Knudson et al. fail to disclose a video display device switching from one video data source device to another video data source device based on an interrupt request.

US Patent No. 6,441,861 to Vaughan et al. teaches a convergence functionality module connected to a computer connected to a display device. The convergence functionality module generates or receives image data from image data source devices, and sends image data to the computer to display on the display device. The computer receives indications of video from the convergence functionality module, and controls the video source to feed the display device. Vaughan et al. fail to teach controlling at the image data source device, selection of the image data source device based on an interrupt request.

As per the IDS references submitted by the applicant on 3/8/06, below is a summary of their summary and differences when compared to the instant application:

JP 2001-243195 to Fujitsu LTD. teaches a relay server for common use with computer terminals, the relay server receiving an event generated at the computer terminals and delivering information corresponding to the event, the information being whether or not

something is possible. Fujitsu LTD. fail to disclose switching of image data from one image data source device to another image data source device based on an interrupt request.

JP 2001-358919 to Matsushita Electric IND CO. LTD. Teaches two computers sharing a projector and it's memory at the same time. Matsushita Electric IND CO. LTD fails to disclose transferring image data from one image data source device to image data source device based on an interrupt request.

JP 2002-351435 to Canon Inc. teaches a dual mode display device having control means to enable the display device in one mode to receive image data by only one image data source device, and enabling the display device in another mode to receive image data from a plurality of image data source devices. Canon Inc. fails to disclose how the selection of the image data source device is made, not where the selection is made.

JP 2002-358064 to Seiko Epson Corp. teaches a display connected to a plurality of portable terminals used to answer questions then display the result on the display. Seiko Epson Corp. fails to disclose the switching of image data from one image data source device to another image data source device based on an interrupt request.

The prior art above of record, alone or in combination do not teach or fairly suggest

In Claim 1: A first information processing apparatus having means for transmitting image data to an external device, the external device while receiving image data from the first information processing apparatus, transmitting an interrupt request to the receiving means of said first information processing apparatus indicating that a second information processing apparatus has requested transmission of image data to the external device, the first information apparatus having means for then instructing the external device whether or not to allow shifting an image data transmission source to the external device from the first information processing

apparatus to the second information processing apparatus when the first information processing

apparatus received the interrupt request.

In claim 6: A method controlling the display of image data from a first information

processing apparatus to an external device, the first information processing apparatus

transmitting image data to the external device, the external device displaying the image data

received from the first information processing apparatus, the external device sending an

interrupt request to the first information processing apparatus while it's displaying image data,

the interrupt request indicating to the first information processing apparatus that the external

device received an image-data transmission request from a second information processing

apparatus, and in response to the interrupt request, the first information processing apparatus

instructing the external device whether or not to allow shifting a transmission source transmitting

image data to the external device from the first information processing apparatus to the second

information processing apparatus.

In claim 11: A first information processing apparatus having means for transmitting

image data to an external device, the external device while receiving image data from the first

information processing apparatus, transmitting an interrupt request to the receiving means of

said first information processing apparatus indicating that a second information processing

apparatus has requested for the presentation of image-data to the external device, the first

information apparatus having means for then instructing the external device whether or not to

allow display of an image data from the second information processing apparatus.

In Claim 16: A method controlling the display of image data from a first information

processing apparatus to an external device, the first information processing apparatus

transmitting image data to the external device, the external device displaying the image data

received from the first information processing apparatus, the external device sending an

interrupt request to the first information processing apparatus while it's displaying image data,

the interrupt request indicating to the first information processing apparatus that the external

device received an image-data presentation request from a second information processing

apparatus, and in response to the interrupt request, the first information processing apparatus

instructing the external device whether or not to allow display of image data from the second
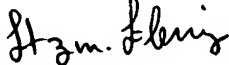
information processing apparatus.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the

issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons

for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to David E. Martinez whose telephone number is (571) 272-4152. The

examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Fritz M. Fleming can be reached on 571-272-4145. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private

PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FRITZ FLEMING
AU2181 PRIMARY EXAMINER Supervisory
GROUP 2100

DEM